

# Dogs Best Friend Officer Barrett

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second complaint, or if the owner refuses to comply with Barrett's request, may find its way to the Selectmen's office, the only body with the authority to issue a restraining order on a dog. If a restraining order is issued, the dog must be under control by its owner at all times.

"In 20% of cases, people will do something about the dog themselves, but 80% don't. People don't take care of their dogs," Barrett said.

"They buy a puppy, and it's cute. But then it grows into a dog. When I confront people about their dogs, they're immediately on the defensive, worse than they'd be with their kids. It's really bad."

However, when a dog bites or vicious behavior is reported, the animal must be restrained for 10 days, the incubation period for rabies, per order of the Board of Health. A permanent restraining order on such a dog would be issued by Selectmen.

"Usually when a dog is restrained, owners comply," Barrett said. "If they don't the dog will be ordered destroyed or removed from the town." Barrett doesn't think the latter option is just. "A bad dog in Cohasset would be a bad dog anywhere else, but that's not the way the law works." However, there is rarely a need for a official dog hearing, he said.

"A little effort would make any dog a good dog," Barrett believes. He advised owners to neuter all male and spay females not intended for breeding. The idea is to keep dogs at home, off other people's property and to avoid paternity suits, he said laughingly.

Some dog cases in Cohasset Barrett has witnessed and worked with have been classics in humor, pathos and human nature.



... Did somebody say "Dog Officer?"

Barrett related the tale of a German Shepard dog that had to be shot a few weeks ago. Apparently the dog had adopted a summer home as its own territory and viciously refused to let the resident who owned the property enter the house.

Barrett tried in vain to slip a noose around the dog's neck so he could remove it to Kreshingham Kennel in Hingham. Cohasset's dog pound. Finally, Barrett approved the decision to shoot the dog, as the safety of all concerned was in continuous jeopardy.

There was also the case of the two oldtimers who lived about 100 feet apart. One accused the other's dog of having killed his rabbits. But the dog's actual identity remained in question. Barrett went to investigate. He was walking around through a tall garden in the backyard of the accuser's home when he noticed both neighbors stalking the peripheries of their property with shotguns. Barrett said he hightailed it out of there, not stopping to ask questions lest he be mistaken for the marauding dog.

Another fine summer morning found Barrett in the middle of the road on a cul-de-sac in town, again trying to settle a dog dispute. It was Sunday, Barrett said, and church music was wafting from the open

windows into the morning air. Intermingling with what otherwise would have been a state of peace and grace were the raging expletives flying past Barrett from the neighbor who had been kept up all night directed at his neighbor across the street, none other than the owner of the yipping nocturnal dog.

Many dog complaints end when residents move away or die.

"Sometimes it's a hate situation between people in a neighborhood," Barrett observed, and although he often gets dragged in, he's thankful when the repetitive problems resolve themselves.

Barrett's concluding remarks emphasized the need for dog owners to assume more responsibility for their pets. He said there are 700 licensed dogs in Cohasset, probably 75% of all the dogs in town. Proper licensing would help in locating lost dogs, as well. If located in Cohasset a lost dog will be forwarded to the kennel in Hingham where there is a 10 day holding period for

the owner to claim the animal. If claimed the owner is required to pay the kennel fee and properly license and display the tag on the dog's collar.

If the animal isn't claimed after 10 days it may be euthanized. Barrett said he goes on an all-out campaign to find a home for a nice dog that doesn't appear to have a local owner. Sometimes, he said, he goes so far as to take the dog to work with him at Bay State Gas in Brockton, tie it to the handle of his car door and prop a sign on the windshield imploring passersby to take a pet home.

More often than not his efforts work, he said. It all goes to show that Jack Barrett is the best friend, and more than that, the peacemaker for Cohasset dogs.



JACK BARRETT

## Young Area Violinists In Suzuki Festival

The Young Violinists of the South Shore Conservatory have once again been invited to participate in the annual Boston Suzuki Festival. The Festival will be held all day at Newton North High School on Saturday, May 19th. The culminating activity, to which the public is invited free of charge will be the Honors Recital and Grand Concert at 1:30 p.m. The Concert will include piano, cello, and over 200 violinists from Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Selections will vary in difficulty from "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" to the "Concerto in A Minor" of J.S. Bach.

The children from the Conservatory, who have been asked to participate, range in

age from 3 to 10. They are: Penn Clarke, Lawson Clarke, Brook Gracia, Cynthia MacKay all of Hingham; Catherine Murphy and Pheobe Bernard of Norwell; Jane DeLima and Kate DeLima of Cohasset; Peter Gates, Jonathan Gates and Matthew Weaver, all of Scituate; and Sheila Hurd of Whitman. The children's teacher, Ms. Donna Jean Hurd, will be a rehearsal instructor at the Festival.

The South Shore Conservatory of Music in Hingham is a not for profit community music school and the Young Violinists class is just one of the many classes offered to children and adults at the school.

## SSAC Accepting Applications For Membership

The South Shore Art Center is now accepting applications for Gallery membership from exhibiting artists. The special category of membership is available for professionals consistently working in the fields of painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, weaving, fine crafts and mixed media.

Gallery membership allows artists to display work in monthly shows in the Members Gallery and to be eligible to apply for a show in the Invitational Gallery. Artists are chosen for membership by a selection committee which meets periodically to review submitted original work; the next meeting of the Committee will take place the end of May. Artists interested in submitting their work should leave their name and address at the Center Office on 103 Ripley Roads in Cohasset or telephone the Center Office at 383-9548 between 12 noon - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### THE Shoe Closet

OF DUXBURY

#### THE BOTTOM LINE

The catalyst that transforms this season's separate fashions into one total sleek and feminine look is the new shoe. The shoe is the essential element that throws everything into proper perspective and makes it "work." Many of the new styles absolutely demand a lighter, higher, and more graceful shoe.

The impact of a straight slit skirt is lost when worn with a low, bulky shoe. However, a graceful high heel, strappy sandal allows it to realize its dramatic potential. A soft kinky dress will look dowdy with last year's heavier shoe. This season's dresses, whether sleek and narrow, slightly bloused with a narrow skirt, or cinched at the waist and crisply flaired, all need this new shoe to be carried off.

The new straight leg pants are a disaster without a high shoe. Try a pair of open backed mules, or slides, available in many bright colors, for a happy coordination of the height and sport look needed. Many are totally padded on the inside for greater than imagined comfort, which certainly belies their sky high glamour.

The casual shoes this season are also stepping lightly. They are happy modifications of the graceful high heel, strappy sandals that give the dresses and suits their lift. Although the heels are lower, they are gracefully turned. The straps are narrower and placed seductively higher on the ankle. The vamp bands are also thinner and sometimes scalloped for an extra statement of femininity.

Fisherman sandals are a fun new casual shoe that offers both a comfortable walking heel and an airy graceful style. Low cork sole sandals, open toe aspadrilles, and colorful striped fabric or woven jute sandals, are all wonderful ways to achieve the light and airy look with ease.

The headlines in footwear are closely echoing those of the general fashion news this season. The bare, foot revealing message supports the body revealing theme of the dramatic new clothes.

However, whatever the fashion headlines, in footwear the bottom line is what best fits you and your lifestyle. Try a pair of seductively high high heels when you feel like a glamorous life and a pair of graceful lower shoes on days when you really do need wings on your heels!

**Duxbury Crossroads - Depot St.**  
**Across From The A&P At Hall's Corner**  
**934-2950**